

ADMINISTRATIVE PLAN OF THE FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Pursuant to Administrative Order Number 14, the Fifteenth Judicial District submits the following Plan for Circuit Court Administration effective June 26th, 2009.

Cases filed in the Circuit Court of the Fifteenth Judicial District shall be designated by the clerks of the various courts according to the following subject division:

Criminal, Civil, Juvenile, Probate and Domestic Relations.

Circuit Division I currently held by Jerry Don Ramey shall be assigned all criminal cases, to include all criminal appeals from District Courts.

Circuit Division II currently held by David McCormick shall be assigned the first two out of three probate cases. The first two out of three domestic relations cases shall be assigned to Division II in Logan, Scott, and Yell Counties. In Conway County, all domestic relation cases, except those filed by the Office of Child Support Enforcement shall be assigned to Division II.

Circuit Division III currently being held by Terry Sullivan shall be assigned all juvenile cases. Every third (divisible by three) probate case shall be assigned to Division III. Every third (divisible by three) domestic relations cases shall be assigned to Division III in Logan, Scott, and Yell Counties. In Conway County, only those domestic relation cases filed by the Office of Child Support Enforcement shall be assigned to Division III.

General Civil-All general civil cases shall be divided as followed: The first two out of three general civil cases shall be assigned to Circuit Division II. Every third (divisible by three) general civil cases shall be assigned to Division III.

Pursuant to A.C.A. 16-98-302, the presiding judge in Division I, currently being held by Jerry Don Ramey, shall be responsible for the administration of the drug court in all counties in the Fifteenth Judicial District and shall be responsible for the creation and maintenance of the drug court docket.

In the event of a recusal of a circuit judge, the first case will be assigned to the next numbered judge and alternate thereafter, For example, if Circuit Division I recused, the first case will be assigned to Division II and next to Division III and alternate thereafter. In the event all the Circuit Judges in the district recuse, the last judge to recuse will write to the Supreme Court and request appointment of a special judge.

It is agreed that judicial expediency and consistency is better achieved with only one judge presiding over the criminal subject matter cases and one judge over the juvenile subject matter cases in the Fifteenth Judicial District. Therefore, this plan provides that Circuit

Division I will be assigned all criminal cases and Circuit Division III all juvenile cases. This plan will allow the Prosecuting Attorney to be present at all criminal jury trials.


This plan takes into consideration that this district is made up of four counties including six courthouses. Five of the six courthouses have one courtroom shared by the three Circuit Court Judges and a District Judge.

This plan also takes into consideration the individual experiences of the judges and caseload of each judge.


It has been and will continue to be, the policy of each judge in the Fifteenth Judicial District to exercise jurisdiction over all matters, regardless of subject matter division, and to act for, in behalf of, and in substitution for the other judges when exigent circumstances warrant, when it is appropriate for the convenience of the litigants, attorneys, and witnesses, and at all other times when not to act may likely cause justifiable criticism of the judiciary of the Fifteenth Judicial District.


All judges of the Circuit Court of the Fifteenth Judicial District shall at all times have the authority to hear the matters within the jurisdiction of the Circuit Court. This administrative policy does not affect the right nor the power of the Circuit Judges to, by agreement, temporarily amend or modify any provision of this policy when, in their judgment, it is necessary for the fair administration of justice.

We believe this plan provides a process which shall apportion the business of the Circuit Court among each judge within our judicial district on a fair and equal basis.


JERRY DON RAMEY
CIRCUIT JUDGE
DIVISION I

Date: June 26, 2009


DAVID MCCORMICK
CIRCUIT JUDGE
DIVISION II


TERRY SULLIVAN
CIRCUIT JUDGE
DIVISION III